during December, 1989 to June, 1990 is as under:-

	Allocation	Lifting
December, 89	600	673
January, 90	600	500
February, 90	600	500
March, 90	650	459
April, 90	750	0
May, 90	2000	594
June, 90	3000	1688

(b) The Government of Orissa had initially made a demand of 24000 Mts. of edible oils for PDS during the Oil Year 1989-90 i.e. from November, 1989 to October, 1990. The average monthly demand worked out from the yearly demand is 2000 Mts. The Government of Orissa has now desired an enhanced quota of 5000 Mts. per month.

(c) Yes, there is an overall shortage of oil in the country.

(d) The overall allocation of edible oil for PDS has been increased to 85,000 Mts. in August, 1990 from 40,000 Mts. in April, 1990. This increase in allocation is likely to continue for a couple of months to cope with the enhanced requirement of the festival months. This increase in allocation is likely to improve the availability of edible oils for the consumers. Besides stock limits of edible oilseeds and edible oils to be held by various categories of traders have been reduced to avoid the chances of hoarding. Further the minimum margin on bank advances against oilseeds and vegetable oils has further been raised. States have also been advised to gear up their enforcement machinery to discipline the trade. These steps taken by the Government are likely to be effective in curbing the rising trend of prices of edible oils.

Project to link Karur with Bangalore by B.G.

585. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) by when the project to link Karur with Bangalore by B.G. railway would be taken up for execution;

(b) by when the project is likely to be completed;

(c) whether Government are aware of the necessity to link Madras Central through Madras Beach, Egmore, Villupuram, Tiruchurappalli to Dindigul by Broad Gauge; and

(d) if so, what steps Government propose to take to execute this project?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There is no such proposal at present.

(c) and (d) Madras Central and Dindigul are already linked by a BG route *via* Karur, Erode, Jolarpettai and Katpadi. Moreover, Madras Beach, Egmore, Villupuram and Tiruchurappalli are on the Metre Gauge trunk route on Southern India and there is no proposal to convert this route into BG.

Increase in Oilseeds Production

586. SHRI S.K.T. RAMACHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to increase oilseeds production; and

(b) what steps are being taken by Government to increase dry-farming?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) In order to increase the production of Oilseeds a Centrally Sponsored Scheme namely Oilseeds Production Programme (OPP) is being implemented in important oilseed growing States. The scheme provides financial assistance to the State for supply of inputs and farmers support services.

(b) Besides a Centrally Sponsored scheme "National Watershed Development of Rainfed Agriculture," a pilot project for Watershed Development in rainfed areas with World Bank assistance is being implemented in the States of Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, Madhya Pradesh and Maharashtra to promote dry farming.